

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as shown:

Please delete the paragraph on page 6, line 29 to page 7, line 10 and replace it with the following paragraph:

Figure 1 is a schematic diagram of a nucleic acid construct encoding invention fusion proteins that contain EcR (~~darkly shaded~~) with a dimer partner, U (Usp) or R (RXR) (~~darkly shaded~~). “D” = DNA binding domain; “L” = ligand binding domain; curvilinear line = fusion bridge. “Individual” (SEQ ID NOs: 76 & 77 which encode SEQ ID NO: 79) represents a nucleotide sequence that encodes the wild type C terminus of EcR (receptor) and the monomeric N-terminus of RXR (binding partner) before introduction of a nucleotide sequence encoding a fusion bridge. “Fused” (SEQ ID NO: 78) represents the same segments with nucleotides inserted that encode a 5 amino acid fusion bridge (amino acids 3-7 of SEQ ID NO: 80) containing the SfiI insertion site. “Tether” (SEQ ID NOs: 30 & 31) indicates a nucleotide sequence that encodes a 12 amino acid linker (SEQ ID NO: 15) to be inserted into the SfiI site of the fusion bridge to produce fusion proteins with greater spacing between the two protein units (i.e., dimer partners) in the invention fusion protein.

Please delete the paragraph on page 9, lines 12-19 and replace it with the following paragraph:

Figures 7A-E are a series of six schematic diagrams representing possible conformations of receptor FDs described in the text. **Shaded Stippled** and white oval/rectangles represent receptors, small rectangles with interior arrows represent EcREs, and curvilinear lines represent

linkers between protein units and in the invention fusion proteins. **Figure 7A** represents a native dimer; **Figure 7B** represents a disorganized fusion protein; **Figure 7C** represents an endodimer orientation of a single invention FD; **Figure 7D** represents a tetramer of two invention FDs; **Figure 7E** represents a multimer of four invention FDs.